GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7932
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
RAMJI LAL SUMAN;SUKDEO PASWAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the huge quantity of agricultural products lichi and potatoes have perished due to lack of adequate processing arrangements in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the States who have suffered losses on this account alongwith the quantum thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have contemplated to encourage the setting up of fruit processing industries;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are formulating any scheme to provide training, information, loan etc. to set up the processing industries in these regions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a) & (b): In 1995, Government of India constituteda Working Group on Post Harvest Management, Marketing & Exports. This Group estimated that post-harvest losses in different crops ranges from 8 to 37%. These losses occur during different stages after harvest. The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research has assessed that losses occur at the following stages :-

(i) Harvesting & pre-harvesting; due to spoilage, spillage and trimming.

(ii) Transport; due to spoilage, bruising, breakage and infection as a result of dust and heat.

(iii) Storage; due to over-ripening or under-ripening, with rain and humidity.

(iv) Processing and packing; due to inefficiency and contamination.

(v) Marketing; due to loss of weight and quality with multi-level handling.

Statewise data regarding losses on account of inadequate processing arrangements, for individual crops, are not available.

(c) to (f): Department of Food Processing Industries provides support to facilitate overall growth of food processing sector. Under its plan schemes, the Department provides concessional finance to establish/expand/modernize food processing industries, for training of manpower, promotion of R&D, dissemination of information and knowledge etc. and also provides marketing assistance. Besides, other agencies like National Horticultural Board (NBH), Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) National Co-operative Development Corporation also provide assistance under their respective schemes.